

HEALTH

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BOROUGH OF OSSETT.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

**(W. G. EVANS, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)**

***Including the Report of the
SANITARY INSPECTOR***

(F. T. HARRISON, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.)

1951.



OSSETT:

S. COCKBURN AND SON, THE BOROUGH PRINTING WORKS
AND "OBSERVER" OFFICE.





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ANNUAL REPORT

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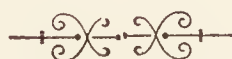
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Health Committee.

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR S. E. BICKLE

Members:

ALDERMAN J. W. FORD

„ J. W. GILL

„ G. MOORHOUSE

„ G. F. WILSON

COUNCILLOR J. ASQUITH

„ J. F. ATKINSON

„ H. AUDSLEY

„ A. CLARK (Mayor after May, 1951)

„ C. HITCH

„ E. LAWTON

„ E. B. NETTLETON

„ N. OAKES

„ H. SMITH

„ L. R. SMITH

„ J. TYLER (Mayor until May, 1951)

Co-opted Members:

MRS. M. ELLIS

MRS. G. MOORHOUSE

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

WILLIAM GORONWY EVANS, M.A., M.B., B.Ch.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

F. T. HARRISON, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

To the Mayor and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my fifth Annual Report.

There are a number of points of interest to note in the vital statistics. First, there were only six deaths in infants under one year of age. The number of still births—three—is, as far as can be ascertained, the lowest ever recorded.

The general death rate is higher than usual, but there is nothing to indicate that there is any special influence at work, and the increase can, I feel sure, be put down to a chance fluctuation.

The birth rate continues to fall, but the substantial decrease in population is apparently due to the inflated estimates in previous years, which are now shown to be erroneous by the 1951 census figure which is quoted.

Whooping Cough shows an increased incidence. Apart from this, the incidence of infectious disease was lower than usual.

The time should not be far distant when whooping cough is controlled to the same extent as diphtheria by the use of effective vaccines. This should also have a considerable effect on the general standard of health among young children.

In spite of the improved chances of cure and the lower death rate in cases of tuberculosis, there appears to be no fall in incidence in the Borough. This remains one of the most important of the outstanding problems in preventive medicine.

Once again, I acknowledge gratefully your kindness and interest in the work of this department. The co-operation of other officials of the Council was also of great assistance to me.

I am, Sirs,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. EVANS.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS.

General Statistics:—

Area: 3,332 acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid-1951): 14,480.

Number of dwelling-houses: 4,902.

Rateable value: £72,046.

Sum represented by penny rate (actual product): £282.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Males.	Females.	Total.	
Live births	Legitimate	110	103	213	Birth rate per 1,000 of the esti- mated resident population = 15.4
	Illegitimate	3	7	10	
Still births	Legitimate	113	110	223	Rate per 1,000 live and still births = 13
	Illegitimate	—	3	3	
Deaths	Legitimate	—	—	—	Rate per 1,000 of estimated population = 16.0
	Illegitimate	127	104	231	

TABLE I—CAUSES OF DEATH AND AGE DISTRIBUTION.

Cause of Death,	0-1		1-5		5-15		15-30		30-45		45-60		60-75		75+		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...												1	3			3	1
Syphilitic disease ...																1	1
Meningitis ...								1									17
Cancer ...									2	4	1	7	5	4	2	2	1
Diabetes ...																	1
Coronary disease, angina ...																	17
Other heart and circulatory diseases ...																	1
Influenza ...									1	2	4	3	9	4	6	4	11
Pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases	3	1			1						8	5	28	15	19	20	42
Nephritis and nephrosis ...									1		2	3	7	1	7	2	3
Enlarged prostate ...									1			1				1	2
Ulcer of stomach ...															1	1	
Pregnancy, childbirth ...																	
Other diseases ...		2								1		1	2		3	4	8
Accidents ...									1					3	1		3
Suicide ...									1				1				
Total all causes ...	3	3			1		1		8	7	18	22	58	34	40	36	104

INFANT MORTALITY.

TABLE II.

NET DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES UNDER ONE YEAR:—6.

Causes of death.		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total under 1 year.
Broncho-pneumonia	...	1			1	2	1			1	4
Prematurity	... ..		1			1					1
Toxæmia due to acute otitis media									1		1
Totals	...	1	1		1	3	1		1	1	6

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR:—

Administrative County of the West Riding of Yorkshire	...	31.8
Ossett Borough	... ..	26.9

TABLE III.

STATISTICS FOR THE DISTRICT, 1946-1951.

			Popula- tion.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infant Deaths.	Infant Mortality Rate.	Still Birth Rate.
1946	...	...	14,070	21.5	13.6	16	51	23
1947	...	...	14,410	24.1	13.3	15	43	19
1948	...	...	14,690	18.7	11.4	7	26	35
1949	...	...	14,720	16.0	13.9	9	38	25
1950	...	...	14,800	15.9	14.7	16	68	45
1951	...	...	14,480	15.4	16.0	6	26.9	13

SECTION B.

THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

Laboratory Facilities.

There is no change in the availability of this service. Dr. Findlay took Dr. Lane's place as Director during the year. The co-operation between the laboratory and the Medical Officer of Health has in all respects been maintained.

Ambulance Facilities.

There has been no major change in the ambulance service as it affects this district.

Isolation Hospital Accommodation.

This is provided at the Snapethorpe Hospital, Wakefield.

General Hospital Accommodation.

In general, the remarks I made under this heading for 1950 are equally applicable to 1951. The only addition I would make would be to stress the fact that the need for accommodation for the aged infirm is becoming more and more urgent as time passes. This shows itself by the steadily increasing proportion of the Home Help establishment that has to be allocated to this group. Many of the cases so assisted require help that is outside the functions of the Home Help Service. They remain at home until their condition deteriorates sufficiently for them to be admitted to hospital, if they are fortunate, or to die at home if they are not.

The matter has been the subject of correspondence and comment in professional journals for a considerable time. It is also remarkable for the unanimity of the opinions expressed upon it by the medical profession. Even this unusual state of affairs is ineffective in promoting any action.

After Care.

The demand for this service grows very slowly. It is, however, evident that certain hospitals are aware of the benefits that can accrue to the patient from co-operation between the hospital, general practitioner and local authority.

Domiciliary Nursing.

There have been no changes in staff. There was a slight fall in the volume of work done, i.e., 6,065 visits to 250 cases, compared with 7,411 visits to 257 cases last year. We are fortunate now in having a full-time relief nurse for the division. Her work is included in the 1951 figures given above.

Maternity Services.

(a) Institutional.

At present the arrangements in force are the same as those in operation during the latter part of 1950 and these have continued to work satisfactorily.

It is understood that discussions have taken place between the Leeds Regional Hospital Board and Management Committees on the question of the reduction of numbers of hospital maternity beds. Whatever decisions are finally made, it is to be hoped that these will not reduce the accommodation available in this area. The percentage of institutional births in the Borough was 54.5 (123 out of 226). This is somewhat higher than the percentage in the other districts in this division. However, when one considers the housing difficulties of the Borough and the fact that the percentage in some districts is over 70, it cannot be said that the Borough is taking more than its share of available accommodation.

(b) Domiciliary.

The work was carried out by three midwives. There were 103 home confinements. This represents 45.5 per cent. of the total. In 80 cases gas and air analgesia was administered.

(c) Ante-Natal Care.

The clinic is held weekly, as hitherto, at Croft House. Dr. I. Hargreaves is the Medical Officer. There were 615 attendances by 194 expectant mothers.

Post-Natal cases are also seen at the same clinic and 23 mothers made 24 attendances for post-natal examinations.

(d) Maternal Mortality.

There were no deaths under this heading during the year.

(e) Premature Babies.

Babies (including Stillbirths) of 5½lb. in weight or under at birth delivered in the year 1st January, 1951, to 31st December, 1951, inclusive.

Weight at Birth.	No. of Premature Births.		Number dying. Days and hours of survival.	Number surviving 28 days.
	Born Alive.	Born Dead (of over 28 wks. duration of pregnancy).		
Lbs.				
2½-3	—	—	—	—
3-3½	—	—	—	—
3½-4	1	—	—	1
4-4½	1	—	—	1
4½-5	1	—	—	1
5-5½	3	—	—	3
Total	6	—	—	6

(f) Child Welfare.

There were no changes in the clinic arrangements during the year. There was a slight fall in the attendance figures, compared with 1950. The figures are as follows:—

No. of children. who attended.	Total attendances.	
	Under 1 year.	Over 1 year.
527	2,665	1,757

I have pleasure in acknowledging gratefully Dr. Coad's work as Medical Officer to the clinic and the valuable assistance of the Voluntary Committee.

Venereal Diseases.

Facilities for treatment are available in all the neighbouring large towns. Up-to-date information in regard to place and time of clinics is publicised locally.

School Health Service.

The school population at the end of the year was 2,442.

Medical Inspections.

School.	No. of sessions.	No. of children seen.	
		Routine.	Non-Routine.
Southdale Modern	9	148	17
Southdale Infants'	3	40	—
Spa Street	4	63	13
St. Ignatius' R.C.	3	47	28
Ossett Grammar	1	14	6
Gawthorpe Infants'	4	81	—
Gawthorpe Mixed	5	92	23
Flushdyke	6	93	53
South Ossett C.E.	4	69	65
		647	205

It will be seen from the table that some progress was made during the year towards bringing this part of the work up to date.

Nutrition.

	A	B	C
Entrants ...	51	245	42
Intermediates ...	47	149	7
Leavers ...	34	68	4
	<hr/> 132	<hr/> 462	<hr/> 53 = 647
	<hr/> 20.40%	<hr/> 71.41%	<hr/> 8.19%

This table shown an increase in the " C " group compared with 1949. (No figures were available for 1950.) This difference is probably due to the fact that examinations were carried out by a different medical officer.

Cleanliness.

School.	No. of children examined.	No. of individual children found to be infested.	Percentage of individual children infested.	
			1950.	1951.
Southdale Modern ...	612	6	5.7	.97
Holy Trinity C.E. ...	335	17	6.3	5.07
Gawthorpe County ...	344	41	8.0	11.91
Flushdyke County ...	245	10	6.9	4.08
Spa Street County ...	153	7	6.4	4.57
St. Ignatius' R.C. ...	104	1	1.7	.96
South Ossett C.E. ...	218	10	8.1	4.58

It is gratifying to note a considerable decrease in the figures at all schools but one compared with last year. It cannot be too strongly emphasised, however, that this improvement is only achieved and will only be maintained by continuous supervision by Nurse Bartlett, the School Nurse. There is, in fact, evidence that considerable numbers of girls relapse soon after leaving school and have to be refused admission to employment because of dirty heads.

School Clinic.

Sessions.	Attendances.
319	3,677

An average of 11.5 per session.

Domestic Help Service.

There was a marked drop in the number of cases assisted during the year (87, compared with 113 in 1950). Unfortunately, the number of hours worked in each district in the division is not available, but the total for the division shows a slight increase. The average number of hours worked in each category of case is also known. This shows an increase on the 1950 figures. The types of cases dealt with and the numbers of each type are shown below. The figures in parenthesis refer to 1950.

Illness (excluding aged)	...	25	(38)
Lying-in	... ..	24	(44)
Expectant mothers	... ..	1	(2)
Aged	... ..	36	(29)
Children of school age	...	1	(—)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		87	(113)
		<hr/>	<hr/>

It will be seen that the aged category is the only one to show an increase. Although the number of hours worked per week is usually small in these cases they need help for a comparatively long time.

Mental Health.

There were in their own homes five mentally defective persons under statutory supervision and three under voluntary supervision. Three were in regular employment; one was able to undertake such casual labouring work as was available and for one young child hospital training was awaited.

Patients discharged from mental hospitals continued to be referred for after-care and during the year nine such persons were visited at regular intervals so long as they required help.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(a) **Water Supply.**

Two-thirds of the supply is obtained from the Pildacre Works and one-third is bought as treated water from Batley.

Six chemical analyses have been carried out and 14 bacteriological examinations. All were satisfactory.

There is no liability to plumbo-solvent action.

No action was necessary in regard to contamination.

There are 4,902 dwelling-houses in the Borough and all are on the public supply. None is supplied from standpipes.

(b) **Housing.**

It is a depressing fact that the unsatisfactory position I commented on last year has changed very little. There were still 161 cases of overcrowding at the end of the year, compared with 171 cases last year. Thirty cases of overcrowding were relieved during the year and 35 new cases were reported.

As I commented last year, rehousing on the present scale is barely keeping pace with normal wastage and new applications.

SECTION D.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases.

The following cases of infectious disease (other than tuberculosis) were notified during the year:—

	0-1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	Over 25.	No. of cases.	Removed to hospital.
Scarlet Fever			1	4				5	4
Whooping Cough	9	36	62	47				154	
Measles	4	47	80	31		1		163	
Pneumonia					1		3	4	
Meningoccal						1		1	1

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 199 children received a full immunising course, and 182 children received reinforcing doses.

The total number of children under 15 years of age who have completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to the end of the year is 2,229.

This represents 63·6 per cent. of the child population.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

The number of persons vaccinated during the year was as follows:—

Under 1 year	23
1-4 years	27
5-15 years	3
15 or over	10
	<hr/>
	63
	<hr/>

Ten persons were re-vaccinated during the year.

Tuberculosis.

New cases were notified as follows:—

	M.	F.	Total.
Pulmonary ...	5	3	8
Non-Pulmonary ...		2	2
	5	5	10

The following cases were removed from the Register during the year:—

	M.	F.	Total.
Pulmonary ...	1	3	4
Non-Pulmonary ...	1	—	1
	2	3	5

Cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year were:—

	M.	F.	Total.
Pulmonary	25	13	38
Non-Pulmonary ...	11	10	21
	36	23	59

Food Poisoning.

There were no outbreaks of Food Poisoning.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR,

Year ended 31st December, 1951.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your approval the report of the Sanitary Inspection of the Borough for the year ended December 31st, 1951, and of the Cleansing Services for the period of the financial year ended March 31st, 1952.

In spite of administrative difficulties, it is pleasing to note steady progress in most phases of the Department's work. Housing, however, presents increasing problems. New building cannot keep pace with increasing demand, even though that demand is not based on rising population, but on rapidly degenerating private property. Much has been written on the difficulties of owners of old houses, but little appears to have been done to help in keeping this type of accommodation reasonably fit for habitation, without extreme hardship being experienced by the unfortunate owners. It is not surprising, therefore, that, as houses become older, owners show greater disinclination to comply with requirements of notices, formal or informal, even to the extent of requesting that Demolition Orders be served.

A successful year has been experienced in the Cleansing Department, due to increased availability of labour, little sickness among employees, and the wisdom of bringing the staff up to strength, together with the appointment of a Foreman/Ganger. Even during the heaviest working period, and taking into consideration the proportion of mining employees in the area, the period of bin collection has been little over a working week, and ashpits have been emptied, on an average, each fortnight. A further improvement has been the regular hire of a gully emptier to cleanse cesspools.

The various summaries and tables show the inspections and improvements under their respective headings.

In presenting this report, I must express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their help and co-operation, to the Medical Officer of Health and Officials of the Council for their advice and assistance, and

finally, to the staff of this department, whose loyal and unfailing service made any progress possible.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. T. HARRISON,

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses completed during the year—

By the Corporation	...	...	...	...	44
By private enterprise	...	...	...	...	6
By conversion of existing dwellings	...	...	...	...	1
Total					51

Housing demand as represented by applications for Council Houses—

	3-B.R.	2-B.R.
From people in—		
Overcrowded conditions	123	24
Morally overcrowded	79	60
Lodgings	6	73
Houses suitable only for demolition	14	21
From medical cases	3	1
Total of priority groups	225	179
From people with no special priority	49	142
From married couples in lodgings, without children	—	47
From married couples in a house, without children	—	23
	274	391
Total		665
From people requiring bungalows	...	102
From people living outside the Borough and—		
(a) Working inside	...	72
(b) Working outside	...	73
Total applications	...	912
Total applications, 31st December, 1950	...	812
Cases of overcrowding abated	30	
New cases discovered during the year	35	
Total cases outstanding, 31st December, 1951	161	
Involving	178 Families	
and	894 Persons	

Statistics—Housing.

No. of dwelling-houses in the district	4,902
No. of back-to-back included in above	392
No. inspected under Public Health or Housing Acts	412
Inspections made for the purpose	686
No. inspected and recorded under Housing (Consolidated) Regulations	18
Inspections made for the purpose	31
No. considered unfit for habitation	18
No. not in all respects reasonably fit	394
No. of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	312
Formal Notices requiring defects to be remedied, Public Health Acts	29
No. remedied by owner	6
No. remedied by Local Authority in default of owner	23
Sections 11 and 13, Housing Act, 1936—	
No. of representations made in respect of unfit houses	17
No. of Demolition Orders made	15
No. of houses demolished	5

GENERAL SANITARY INSPECTION AND IMPROVEMENTS.

We have now reached the stage in privy conversion where outstanding privies are either without an available sewer or associated with property suitable only for demolition. These privies are widely scattered, and individual sewer extensions could deal with only one or two conversions.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Number of privies with covered middens	54
Number of pail or tub closets	6
Number of waste water (tippler) closets	24
Number of trough closets	20
Number of water closets	4,623

ASHES ACCOMMODATION.

Number of dustbins	4,628
Number of dry ashpits	11
Number of ashpits in connection with privies	41

WORKS OF CONVERSION, ETC.

Tippler closets to water closets	1
Trough closets to water closets	14
Privies to water closets	2
Ashpits abolished or disused	110
Bins substituted	73
Additional w.c.'s provided to existing property	7
Drains reconstructed	6
Drains opened and cleansed	35

CLASSIFIED STATEMENT OF INSPECTIONS.

Housing—Public Health and Housing Acts	686
Visits re accumulations	4
Applicants for Council Houses	358
Ashes accommodation	411
Bakehouses	5
Dairies and milkshops	7
Factories	55
Fried Fish Shops	3
Food preparing premises	10
General food premises	52
Infectious disease	18
Ice-cream premises	11
Meat shops	3
Miscellaneous public health matters	227
Piggeries	36
Refuse collection	139
Salvage collection	64
Schools	6
Slaughterhouses	7
Smoke observations	10
Stables	1
Streams and watercourses	9
Tents, vans and sheds	5
Refuse tips	130
Urinals	18
Verminous premises	60
Vermin—Rats and mice	87
Water supply	4
Water closets	11
Unsatisfactory cleanliness	8
Closet conversions	32
Cellar flooding	3
Diseases of Animals Acts	38
Rag flock	10
Funerals	10
Mortuary	2
<hr/>	
Total inspections	2,540
Interviews with Owners, etc.	348
<hr/>	
	2,888
<hr/>	

DRAINAGE.

New drains inspected	13
Existing drains—	
(a) Chemical tests	2
(b) Colour tests	27
(c) Other tests	1

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS MADE AND DEFECTS REMEDIED.

(a) DWELLING-HOUSES.

Roofs repaired	27
Chimneys repaired	5
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	10
Plaster repaired	21
Rendered free from dampness	11
External walls repaired	11
Floors repaired	4
Windows repaired	4

(a) DWELLING-HOUSES (continued).

Sash cords renewed	2
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	7
Rainwater pipes disconnected from drain	3
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	5
New sinks fitted	5
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	9
Water fittings repaired	1
Water supply improved	7
Water removed from cellars	10
Other defects remedied	17
Treated for vermin	28
Disinfected	12
Cleansed	3
Accumulations removed	2
Improper keeping of animals abated	1

(b) WATER CLOSETS.

New pedestals provided	5
Provided with sufficient water supply	7
Cisterns repaired or renewed	13
Repairs to structure	1
Cleansed	3

(c) DRAINS.

Reconstructed	6
Cleansed or repaired	35
Inspection chambers provided	5
Self-cleansing gullies provided	5
Ventilation shafts provided	2
Inspection chambers repaired	1

(d) FACTORIES.

Unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences abated	1
---	---

SUMMARY.

Nuisances found during the year	738
Carried forward from 1950	284
	<hr/> 1,022
Nuisances abated during 1951	633
	<hr/>
Outstanding December 31st, 1951	389
	<hr/>
Informal notices issued	222
Informal notices complied with	181
Statutory notices issued	4
Statutory notices complied with	44

FOOD SUPPLIES.

Meat Inspection.

There is no Public Abattoir in the district, but privately owned pigs are slaughtered at two Licensed Slaughterhouses.

The following meat was found unfit for food and was voluntarily surrendered:—

Pork	14 lbs.
Pork Offal	4 lbs.
Beef	57 lbs.
	<hr/>
	75 lbs.
	<hr/>

Other Foods.

All the food found unfit and destroyed or recovered as animal feeding stuff was voluntarily surrendered and is enumerated below:—

	Tins or Containers.	Weight.			
		Lbs.	Ozs.		
Tinned Food.					
Liquid Egg	...	5	86	—	
Fish	...	19	14	14	
Fish Paste	...	8	1	14	
Fruit	...	156	160	10	
Meat	...	62	204	11	
Milk	...	65	60	6	
Pickles, Sauces, etc.	...	3	2	14	
Preserves	...	1	1	—	
Soup	...	31	9	6½	
Vegetables	...	71	95	13	
Other Food.					
Bacon	...		7	5	
Biscuits	...		480	—	
Butter	...		1	—	
Cakes	...		36	—	
Cereals	...			7	
Cheese	...		51	14½	
Eggs in Shell	...		131	12	
Dried Fruit	...		104	—	
Gelatine	...		14	—	
Sausage	...		6	8	
	421	1,470 lbs. 7 ozs.			

Milk.

The milk supply from one producer in the Borough was Pasteurised until, by sampling and clinical examination, two cows affected with tuberculosis could be isolated and destroyed.

No. of Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations, 1949, and the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, are as follows:—

Pasteurised	1
Supplementary Pasteurised	1
Pasteurised/T.T.	13
Supplementary Pasteurised/T.T.	3
Sterilised	15

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

Disinfection of dwelling-houses after cases of:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	6
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	2
Other infections	...	...	...	4
				—
Total	...	...	...	12
				—

Disinfestation of dwelling-houses for:—

Cockroaches	...	...	...	9
Bed Bugs	...	...	...	15
Fleas	...	...	...	1
Other vermin	...	...	...	3
				—
Total	...	...	...	28
				—

The process of disinfestation still involves the use of Gammexane or D.D.T. and the results have proved satisfactory.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The year has shown some improvement in Smoke Emission from local chimneys, but this may possibly be associated with reduced trade and certainly not with extensive installation of new plant, which is difficult to obtain, nor with improved methods of firing.

A Local Colliery boiler plant, a source of considerable nuisance for many years, is being overhauled and much of the steam demand replaced by electricity. Difficulties are being experienced in obtaining materials and changing over to a public electricity supply, but when these are overcome considerable reduction in smoke nuisance should result.

INFESTATION CONTROL—RATS AND MICE.

Sewer Control.

Two maintenance treatments were carried out, the first in March and the second in September. In July a test baiting of the sewers revealed no serious infestation.

These treatments are now a matter of routine, and, considering the age and condition of many of the sewers, infestation is remarkably low.

Surface Control.

Routine treatment of Tips, Sewage Works and other Corporation property was effected during the year.

			Treatments.
Spa Sewage Works	...	...	4
Healey Sewage Works	...	...	1
Flushdyke Refuse Tip	...	...	8
Queen's Drive Refuse Tip	...	...	3
Total			16

Other premises treated during the year were as follows:—

				Rats.		Mice.	
				First Treat- ment.	Re- Treat- ment.	First Treat- ment.	Re- Treat- ment.
Dwellinghouses	...	...	...	10	1	10	1
Business premises	...	...	...	4	1	—	—
Other premises	...	...	...	2	—	1	—
Totals				16	2	11	1

Some success is being experienced in the use of the new poison Warfarin, but the majority of cases have been dealt with by normal pre-baiting and poisoning methods.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

During the course of the year the labour shortage experienced in the previous years showed considerable improvement. Sick-ness and absenteeism showed a welcome reduction, but several unfortunate minor accidents resulted in some loss of man hours.

After many staff changes the position is now becoming stable, and the following figures for man hours lost compare favourably with those for last year:—

		1951-2.	1950-1.
Staff shortage and absenteeism	...	2,056 m/h.	2,346½ m/h.
Paid sickness and injuries	...	628 m/h.	1,284 m/h.
Totals		2,684 m/h.	3,630½ m/h.

Staff.

The full complement of employees engaged on Refuse Collection and Disposal is as follows:—

Loaders	...	...	10 (including Ganger)
Drivers	...	...	3
Paper Balers	...	...	2
Tipman	...	...	1
			—
			16
			—

Transport.

Three motor vehicles operate full-time, two 2-3 tonners fitted with hydraulically-operated tipping bodies, enclosed with metal sliding covers, wholly on dustbin collections; and one 30 cwt. tipper, replaced in December by a Karrier Bantam refuse collection vehicle engaged on ashpit collection, kitchen waste and a small dustbin round.

The dustbin vehicles were brought into service in 1948 and 1949 and the 30 cwt. tipper, now disposed of, in 1940. The new vehicle has been in use for four months.

Disposal.

Both house and trade refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping at Flushdyke.

Salvage.

Details of salvage sold during the year are as follows:—

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Waste paper ...	98	6	2	—
Rags, etc. ...	1	13	1	—
Metal	—	4	2	26
Kitchen waste	63	—	3	—
Other materials	1	13	2	—
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Total ...	164	18	2	26
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Total gross income—£2,034 4s. 4d.

Costs.

	£	s.	d.
Gross costs of the service for the year (including £5,288 14s. 5d. wages and insurance)	7,555	16	4
Total income (including rents, sale of vehicle, etc.)	2,219	3	7
Nett cost as a charge on Rates	£5,336	12	9
Paid holidays	159	7	8
Paid sickness	66	7	6
Total	£225	15	2

For costing purposes depreciation over a five-year period is allowed on Motor Vehicles.

Total estimated tonnage for year—4,955·6 tons.

	£	s.	d.
Cost per ton	1	1	6·5
Nett cost per house per annum	1	1	9·3
Nett cost per house per week			5

Provision of Dustbins.

Total cost for the year	370	16	3
Cost per house per year		1	6·2

Cesspool Emptying.

Total cost for the year	31	11	6
Cost per cesspool per annum	7	17	10½

